

Message Text

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16

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 SSO-00 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 FBIE-00 H-02 /042 W

----- 124995

R 040920Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4349

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5253

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: CASC YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

SUBJ: PRESSURE ON YUGOSLAVS RE TOTH CASE

1. EMBASSY HAS CONSIDERED VARIOUS WAYS TO REACT TO YUGOSLAV HANDLING OF TOTH CASE SO AS TO HELP TOTH AND AVOID FUTURE LIKE CASES. THE KOMBINAT WHOSE SUGAR REFINERY TOTH IS APPARENTLY CHARGED WITH PHOTOGRAPHING SHOULD, IN AMBASSADOR'S VIEW, NOT ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS SITUATION. IF TOTH IS IMPRISONED BECAUSE OF THIS KOMBINAT'S ZEAL TO PROTECT ITS TECHNOLOGY FROM USA AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AS WELL AS TACTICS, AMBASSADOR VIEWS IT NOT DESIRABLE FOR AMERICAN GOVT TO DO BUSINESS WITH THIS KOMBINAT.

2. WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT PIK VRBAS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS MONTH TOOK PART IN A BEEF SHIPMENT TO US ARMY GERMANY, A CONTRACT WHICH EMBASSY APPROVED. EMBASSY WILL ASK APPROPRIATE US ARMY COMMAND IN GERMANY TO EXCLUDE VRBAS FROM NEXT MEAT SALES CONTRACT.

3. SEVERAL HIGH OFFICIALS FROM PIK VRBAS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A VOJVODINA ECONOMIC MISSION TO US. THEY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON OCT 14-15, THEREAFTER IN NEW YORK AND OTHER CITIES. THE AMBASSADOR ASKS DEPARTMENT INSURE THAT ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS A US

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OFFICIAL EMPHASIZE OUR CONCERN OVER TOTH IMPRISON-

MENT AND RESENTMENT OVER VRBAS' ROLE. WE, OF COURSE,
DO NOT KNOW THAT VRBAS WAS RESPONSIBLE BUT IS
QUITE LIKELY. IF VRBAS DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY
THEN ASK WHY TOTH ARRESTED.
SILBERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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